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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)PAGE 01 CARACA 01352 01 OF 03 072243Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CIAE-00	SJK-01	CTME-00	C-01	DS-00	EB-01	FBO-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00
	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01	SR-01
	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSS-00
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 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8184
 INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY
 ARA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
 MSGEN QUANTICO VA PRIORITY
 USOFFICE MRC MIAMI PRIORITY 1738
 DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 CARACAS 01352

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PGOV, MASS, PINR, ASEC, CASC, PREL, VE, OAS
 SUBJECT: AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
 FEBRUARY 3-4

REF: CARACAS 011560 & PREVIOUS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT
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2. THIS MESSAGE LAYS OUT A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS ON
 FEBRUARY 3 AND 4. OUR SITREPS PROVIDED A GENERAL
 CHRONOLOGY, BUT INEVITABLY INTERSPERSED WITH MANY
 OPERATIONAL MATTERS NOT RELATED TO THE EVENTS OF THE COUP
 ITSELF. ALSO, BECAUSE WE REPORTED EVENTS AS WE HEARD OF
 THEM, TIMES AS GIVEN IN THE SITREPS ARE INEVITABLY LATER
 THAN THE ACTUAL EVENT, BY A MARGIN THAT VARIES
 UNPREDICTABLY. THIS MESSAGE BY CONTRAST GIVES ACTUAL
 TIMES, AS BEST AS WE NOW KNOW THEM, BASED ON PRESS
 REPORTING AND OUR OWN SOURCES. NO DOUBT, SOME DETAILS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 6 FEB 2017
 DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUL 2008 200503656

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WILL BE REVISED AS BETTER INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

3. BEGIN CHRONOLOGY:

- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

(BASED ON PRESS INTERVIEWS OF DEFENSE MINISTER OCHOA ANTICH AND THE CHIEF OF THE CASA MILITAR, ADMIRAL MARIO IVAN CARRATU MOLINA)

10:05 P.M.: PRESIDENTIAL PLANE, WITH FIVE PASSENGERS,
- LANDS AT MAIQUETIA AIRPORT AND IS MET, AS CUSTOM REQUIRES, AT THE MILITARY RAMP BY THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, AVILA VIVAS. HOWEVER, THIS TIME, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL OCHOA ANTICH, WAS ALSO PRESENT. ACCORDING TO CARRATU, THE THREE MEN, WHILE TALKING, ENTERED THE PRESIDENTIAL CAR, AND LEFT FOR LA CASONA. CARRATU DECIDES TO GO IN A MILITARY VEHICLE TO MIRAFLORES PALACE, BUT ON THE WAY, CHANGES HIS MIND, AND GOES TO HIS HOUSE FIRST.

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GENERAL OCHOA IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON 02/5 CLAIMS THAT "DRIVING FROM THE AIRPORT WITH THE PRESIDENT AND AVILA, I INFORMED THE PRESIDENT

ABOUT A POSSIBLE ATTEMPT AGAINST EITHER THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE AS IT WAS LANDING OR ON THE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE ON ITS WAY BACK TO CARACAS. OCHOA, IN ORDER TO THWART ANY SUCH PLANS, WENT STRAIGHT FROM MARACAIBO TO MAIQUETIA AIRPORT AND ORGANIZED THE NATIONAL GUARD FOR A POSSIBLE ATTEMPT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT.

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10:45-11.00 P.M: PRESIDENT ARRIVES AT LA CASONA AND
- CONTINUES HIS MEETING WITH THE INTERIOR AND DEFENSE MINISTERS (THIS IS CONFIRMED IN A PHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN AIDE-DE-CAMP COMMANDER DUDAMEL AND CARRATU.)

11:05 P.M.: THE "DAILY JOURNAL" CLAIMS DEFENSE MINISTER
- FERNANDO OCHOA ANTICH REPORTEDLY WARNS PEREZ

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THAT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HAS INFORMATION THAT A GROUP OF OFFICERS IS PREPARING A COUP.

11:30 P.M.: COMMANDER DUDAMEL CALLS CARRATU INFORMING
- HIM THAT THE PRESIDENT IS ON HIS WAY TO
MIRAFLORES PALACE. DUDAMEL DOES NOT SAY WHY

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IN HIS PRESS

INTERVIEW OF 02/5 DEFENSE MINISTER OCHOA SAYS: "FIVE MINUTES AFTER THE PRESIDENT LEFT LA CASONA, IT WAS ATTACKED, AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WAS SURROUNDED.") CARRATU, ON HEARING THE PRESIDENT'S CHANGE IN PLANS, THEN CALLS INTERIOR MINISTER AVILA VIVAS AT HIS HOME; THE MINISTER TOLD HIM HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON. CARRATU TELLS AVILA THAT HE IS ON HIS WAY TO THE PALACE.

MEANWHILE, OCHOA CLAIMS IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE OF 02/5 THAT "ON ARRIVING HOME (NOTE: NO TIME GIVEN AND HE IS REFERRING TO HIS LEAVING THE PRESIDENT'S CAR AFTER THEY ARRIVED AT LA CASONA), I RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE COMMANDER OF FUERTE MARA (WHO WAS IN CARACAS) INFORMING ME THAT THIS UNIT, WHERE THE ARAMENDI BATTALION IS LOCATED, HAS STARTED AN INSURRECTION.

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-15 AID-01 AMAD-01 A-01 CA-02 CCO-00

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CIAE-00	SJK-01	CTME-00	C-01	DS-00	EB-01	FBO-01
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SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSS-00
DTC-01	/063W					

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8185

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY

ARA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

MSGEN QUANTICO VA PRIORITY

USOFFICE MRC MIAMI PRIORITY 1739

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 CARACAS 01352

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, MASS, PINR, ASEC, CASC, PREL, VE, OAS

SUBJECT: AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

I IMMEDIATELY CALLED THE PRESIDENT (NOTE: NO TIME GIVEN)

AND ASKED HIM TO ABANDON THE LA CASONA AND TO GO TO THE MIRAFLORES PALACE. I ALSO CALLED GOVERNOR ALVAREZ PAZ AND ALERTED HIM TO THE SITUATION THAT THE STATE OF ZULIA WAS GOING THROUGH.

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I ALSO ALERTED THE BATTALION THAT PROTECTS THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AND SOON AFTER I ENTERED THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND TOOK COMMAND.

FIVE MINUTES AFTER THE PRESIDENT LEFT LA CASONA, IT WAS ATTACKED, AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WAS SURROUNDED. ... THE PRESIDENT CALLED ME (NOTE: AGAIN NO TIME MENTIONED.

[REDACTED] AND TOLD ME THAT MIRAFLORES WAS UNDER ATTACK.

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WITH THE INFORMATION WE HAD THEN, BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT ("ERA IMPRESCINDIBLE") FOR THE PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS THE NATION AND DENOUNCE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, BOTH FOR VENEZUELA AND

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THE REST OF THE WORLD. [REDACTED]

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CONVINCED THAT THE TROOPS DEFENDING THE MIRAFLORES PALACE DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT MILITARY CAPACITY (FIRE POWER) TO DEFEND THE PALACE FROM AN ARMOR ATTACK....I TOOK SOME MEASURES TO IMMEDIATELY LAUNCH AN ATTACK AGAINST THE REBELS IN MIRAFLORES PALACE.

WHILE THIS WAS HAPPENING, OTHER DEVELOPMENTS STARTED IN FUERTE TIUNA, AS WELL AS IN OTHER BARRACKS IN THE COUNTRY.

I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE HOUR OF THE COUP WAS 11 O'
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CLOCK AT NIGHT.

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- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4:

12.00 A.M.: CARRATU CLAIMS HE ARRIVED AT THE PALACE IN
- HIS WIFE'S CAR, AND AFTER IDENTIFYING
HIMSELF, WAS ALLOWED IN. CARRATU WENT TO HIS ROOM AND
CHANGED INTO HIS MILITARY UNIFORM.

12.30 A.M.: CARRATU WENT TO THE "ANTESALA DE LA
- PRESIDENCIA", WHERE HE MET HIS ASSISTANT,
COLONEL HUNG DIAZ, COMMANDANTE FUENMAYOR, AN AIDE-DE-CAMP
FOR SERVICES, AND A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY GROUP THAT
ESCORTS CIVILIANS. WHILE TALKING, THEY HEARD A LOUD NOISE
COMING FROM THE OUTSIDE AND SAW A (REBEL) TANK ENTERING
THE GROUNDS AT HIGH SPEED.

12:30 - 12:45 A.M.: PRESIDENT AND HIS AIDES, (INCLUDING
- MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AVILA WHO
HAD APPARENTLY RETURNED TO THE PALACE AFTER HIS PHONE
CONVERSATION WITH CARRATU AND AD SECRETARY GENERAL,
SENATOR LUIS ALFARO UCERO, WHO HAD BEEN CALLED TO THE
PALACE [REDACTED]

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DECIDED THAT HE SHOULD LEAVE. THEY ALL ARMED THEMSELVES
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WITH SUB-MACHINE GUNS, AND THROUGH THE USE OF THEIR
CELLULAR PHONES, CARRATU AND HIS ASSISTANT WERE ABLE TO
PLAN CAP'S ESCAPE OUT OF THE PALACE.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DURING THIS TIME HEAVY SHOOTING
STARTED.

12:30 - 12:40 A.M.: CAP, ACCOMPANIED BY INTERIOR MINISTER
- AVILA, THE CHIEF OF THE ESCOLTA CIVIL
HERNAN FERNANDEZ, TWO MOTOR-CYCLE DRIVERS (ONE SERVING AS
CHAUFFEUR, THE OTHER AS ARMED GUARD), AND CARRATU, LEAVE
THE PALACE BY A BACK DOOR. THE MAN WHO CLOSES THE DOOR
BEHIND THEM IS SHOT DEAD BY THE REBELS. THEY ESCAPE IN A
CIVILIAN ARMoured CAR (A GREY FORD LTD), AND DRIVE THROUGH
AVENIDA BARALT TO THE COTA MIL (THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE EXPRESS
WAY APPROXIMATELY 1,000 METRES IN ELEVATION). WHEN THEY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 CARACAS 01352

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, PINR, ASEC, CASC, PREL, VE, OAS
SUBJECT: AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
ENTERED THE COTA MIL, CAP TOLD THEM TO PROCEED TO
VENEVISION. HOWEVER, CAP FIRST CALLED VENEVISION ON HIS
CAR PHONE TO BE SURE IT WAS SAFE TO GO THERE.

12:50 A.M.: CAP ARRIVES VENEVISION.
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(BASED ON THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE, IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE TO PINPOINT EXACTLY WHEN CAP LEFT CASONA,
ARRIVED AT MIRAFLORES, DEPARTED MIRAFLORES, AND ARRIVED AT
CHANNEL 4. THE PRESS INTERVIEW OF CARRATU DOES ALLOW US
TO RECONSTRUCT SOMEWHAT THE ABOVE TIME-FRAME.)

12:35 A.M.: REBELS ATTACK PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE LA
- CASONA, LA CARLOTA AIR BASE, AND MIRAFLORES
PALACE, AT THE SAME TIME THAT GARRISONS IN MARACAY AND
VALENCIA MOVE TO TAKE OBJECTIVES THERE.

12:15 A.M.: ZULIA STATE GOVERNOR OSWALDO ALVAREZ PAZ IS
- PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST BY THE REBELS AFTER
HE REFUSES TO SUPPORT THEIR MOVEMENT.

12:40 A.M.: LOYALIST TROOPS BEGIN TO LEAVE FUERTE TIUNA
GARRISON AND MOVE AGAINST THE REBELS.

1:10 A.M.: CAP INFORMS THE NATION THROUGH CHANNEL 4
- (VENEVISION) THAT A COUP WAS UNDERWAY AND THAT
EVERYTHING WAS UNDER CONTROL.

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[REDACTED]

1:45 A.M.: POLITICAL LEADERS BEGIN APPEARING ON TV,
- CONDEMNING THE COUP ATTEMPT, SUPPORTING PEREZ,
AND UPHOLDING THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

2:40 A.M.: LOYALIST FORCES INFLICT CASUALTIES ON THE
- REBELS, PARTICULARLY AT MIRAFLORES.

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3:30 A.M.: LOYALIST FORCES COMPLETE THEIR SWEEP OF
- MIRAFLORES. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] OTHER LOYALIST FORCES, MAINLY DISIP SECURITY
POLICE, DRIVE REBEL TROOPS FROM LA CASONA (WHERE MRS.
PEREZ REPORTEDLY HELPS CARE FOR WOUNDED GUARDS). REBELS
AT LA CARLOTA CONTINUE TO RESIST.

4:30 A.M.: PEREZ ADDRESSES THE NATION FOR THE SECOND TIME,
- SAYING GOVERNMENT TROOPS HAVE PRACTICALLY
SQUASHED THE REVOLT AND THAT HE WILL SOON RETURN TO
MIRAFLORES.

5:00 A.M.: PEREZ ARRIVES AT MIRAFLORES AND CALLS AN
- URGENT CABINET MEETING.

7:00 A.M.: PEREZ TELLS THE NATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT
- CONTROLS THE ENTIRE COUNTRY EXCEPT FOR A
VALENCIA GARRISON. ALVAREZ PAZ IS RELEASED BY HIS CAPTORS.

9:00 A.M.: CABINET AGREES ON SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL
- GUARANTEES, WHICH MUST BE APPROVED BY CONGRESS.

11:00 A.M.: GOVERNMENT FORCES ENGAGE IN SPORADIC SHOOTING
- NEAR LA CARLOTA IN AN ATTEMPT TO FLUSH OUT
REBEL FORCES FROM THE AIR BASE'S HEADQUARTERS.

11:45 A.M.: LT. COL. HUGO CHAVEZ OF THE REBEL FORCES
- SURRENDERS IN CARACAS AND URGES OTHER LEADERS
TO DO LIKEWISE.

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2:30 P.M.: F-16'S FIRST FLY OVER AND THEN FIRED ROCKETS
- AT THE VALENCIA GARRISON, WHICH SURRENDERS.

3:15 P.M.: DEFENSE MINISTER OCHOA ANTICH ANNOUNCES THAT
- ALL REMAINING REBEL FORCES HAVE BEEN
APPREHENDED AND COUP LEADERS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO COURT
MARTIAL.

3:45 P.M.: A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS APPROVES THE
- SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES.

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